Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SS-20 STR-08 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

COME-00 CEA-02 OIC-04 AID-20 CIAE-00 EA-11 FRB-02

INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03

LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /167 W ----- 025145

R 201639Z MAR 74 FM USMISSION OECD PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159 INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 6964

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: AORG, OECD

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR OECD

REF: STATE 044573

1. CHARGE CALLED ON VAN LENNEP RECENTLY TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL REGARDING HIS TENURE AS SECRETARY-GENERAL. AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT HE DOES DESIRE SECOND TERM, WE INDICATED THAT USG WILLING TO SUPPORT HIS CANDIDACY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IF THIS VIEW SHARED BY OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, THE ISSUE OF SUCCESSION COULD BE SETTLED WITHOUT CREATING ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY IN COMING MONTHS.

2. VAN LENNEP APPEARS APPRECIATIVE OF US EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT AND REJECTED IDEA (THE HAGUE 984) THAT HE HAD EVER REQUESTED TERM OF SHORTER DURATION THAN 5 YEARS PROVIDED IN OECD CONVENTION. SAYING THAT HE DID NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEND TO ENGAGE IN CAMPAIGN, HE CONSIDERED IT

DESIRABLE NEVERTHELESS THAT MATTER BE SETTLED AT ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IF POSSIBLE.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO DISCUSSION WITH VAN LENNEP, WE ALSO CONFERRED WITH AMB. VALERY (FRANCE) AS REP OF HOST GOVERNMENT AND WITH UK PERM REP. BRITISH POSITION SUPPORTING VAN LENNEP REMAINS AS REPORTED USOECD 3774. VALERY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS BUT BELIEVES FRENCH GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO TAKE POSITION SIMILAR TO OUR OWN. HE THINKS US APPROACH MAY HELP EXPEDITE FORMULATION OF VIEW BY FRANCE AND OTHERS. HE WILL TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER EC MEMBERS (THOUGH VOLUNTEERING THAT ESTABLISHMENT COMMUNITY POSITION AS SUCH PROBABLY UNNECESSARY) AND WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US. MISSION WILL INFORM FEW OTHER KEY COUNTRY DELEGATIONS IN LOW KEY, BUT WE PLAN TO DO SO IN FASHION TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE MOUNTING ANY CAMPAIGN. BROWN

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